

I. Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for providing a computerized transaction interface system to a plurality of exchanges comprising automated exchanges and non-automated exchanges, ~~said plurality of exchanges comprising at least one automated exchange and at least one non-automated exchange~~, said method comprising:

receiving, at a client workstation, a client order comprising one or more contracts;

automatically selecting, by a facilitation server, an automated exchange or a non-automated exchange from one of the plurality of exchanges for execution of the client order based on the one or more contracts in the order and based on electronically stored routing rules, wherein the electronically stored routing rules (i) translate messages between a messaging layer and a message protocol; and (ii) do not handle cancel/replace messages;

automatically delivering the order, by the facilitation server, ~~the order~~ to the selected exchange for execution;

wherein an order delivered to a selected automated exchange is further automatically processed by the facilitation server, ~~said order to protect a position~~; and

wherein an order delivered to a selected non-automated exchange is automatically monitored by the facilitation server and an electronic copy of the order is generated and stored in a database.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein selecting one of the plurality of exchanges is also based on a national best bid/offer price for the contracts.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein an at least one automated exchange is selected.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method in accordance with claim 3 further including the step of: placing a facilitation order on the ~~selected~~ automated exchange.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) : A method in accordance with claim 4 further including the step of: placing a contra order against the order on the ~~selected~~ automated exchange.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of creating an instrument evidencing the transaction.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of: providing a monitoring system to monitor the status of the order.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A method in accordance with claim 7 further including the step of: updating the monitoring system as each step occurs.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) : A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of: automatically hedging the order.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of: recording the execution of each step of the transaction.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of: recording the execution of each step of the transaction in a database.